

One Spring day in 1961 bulldozers knocked down Point Isabel hill in Richmond, spread the dirt over the surrounding tidelands and created a new 50 acre industrial park area on the Richmond waterfront north of the Albany race track.

It was a rather small Bay fill project, but it drastically changed the panoramic view of the Bay as seen from the hillside homes of Mrs. Kay Kerr, in El Cerrito, and Mrs. Sylvia McLaughlin in Berkeley.

In reaction, they organized the Save San Francisco Bay

Association, including some of the leading intellectuals, conservationists and wives of Bay Area business men.

Mrs. Kerr (photo at left) is the wife of University of California president Clark Kerr. She served a short term as president of Save The Bay group, and was the "Save The Bay" campaign's real spr-k plug, usually serving in a lesser association office.

Mrs. McLaughlin (photo at right) is the wife of Donald McLaughlin, owner of the nation's largest gold mine and a former president of the U.C. Board of Regents. She is the group's secretary.

Usually working behind the scene through informl socil gatherings, they influenced top federal, state and local leaders to study the problem. They arranged for Mel Scott (center photo), of U.C.'s Institute of Governmental Studies, to write his book, "The Future of San Francisco Bay," which highlighted the problem.

The furor rised by Scott's book aided Assemblyman Nick Petris, D-Okland, who had been fighting a lonely battle in the legislature to get the "Shrinking Bay" problem recognized as a major crisis affecting the whole Bay Area metropolis.

Two Park Directors Face Contests

SEP 10 1968

Two incumbent directors of the Eastbay Regional Park District will be opposed in the Nov. 5 election.

Paul E. Harberts, now serving as director for Ward 1, covering Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville and Orinda, will have Mrs. Sylvia C. McLaughlin, 1450 Hawthorne Terrace, Berkeley, as his opponent. Mrs. McLaughlin is secretary

of the Save San Francisco Bay Association.

In Ward 6, covering the Walnut Creek, Concord, and Eastern Contra Costa County areas, Fred C. Blumberg will be opposed by William C. Roddick Jr., 927 Santa Maria Court, Concord, secretary-treasurer of Retail Clerks Union Local 1179.

Two incumbents whose terms expire this year will be unopposed for reelection. They

are Clyde E. Woolridge, now board president, who represents Ward 2, covering Central Oakland and Lafayette, and John A. Macdonald, representing Ward 4, which covers Alameda and East Oakland.

Three members of the board are not up for re-election this year. They are Paul J. Badger, Ward 7, Marlin W. Haley, Ward 3, and George C. Roeding Jr., Ward 5.

Incumbent Wins in Park District Race

NOV 6 - 1968

A leader in conservationist groups nearly upset an incumbent in an East Bay Regional Park District Ward 1 race while a Ward 6 incumbent was easily re-elected yesterday.

Paul E. Harberts, president of Berkeley's Downtown Merchants, defeated Mrs. Sylvia McLaughlin of Berkeley, secretary of the Save San Francisco Bay Association, by a narrow vote of 32,662 to 32,085.

Ward 1 includes Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville and Orinda.

In Contra Costa County's Ward 6, incumbent Fred C. Blumberg of Pleasant Hill defeated William C. Roddick Jr. of Concord, 61,134 to 17,652.

Two other incumbent park directors were reelected without opposition. They were Clyde R. Woolridge, Ward 2 and John A. MacDonald, Ward 4.

Regional Parks

WARD 1

	Alameda County	Contra Costa	Total
Paul E. Harberts*	28,643	4,019	32,662
Sylvia C. McLaughlin	28,030	4,055	32,085

WARD 6—Contra Costa only

Fred C. Blumberg*	61,134
William C. Roddick, Jr.	17,652

*Indicates Incumbent

Park Board Urged to Take Regional Government Role

NOV 27 1968

Mrs. Sylvia McLaughlin has asked the East Bay Regional Park District to grab the reins of leadership of the proposed Bay Area regional government in the fields of regional parks, open space and regional planning.

The famed Berkeley conservationist, who was narrowly defeated for a seat on the park board in the Nov. 5 election, made the appeal to the board of directors meeting yesterday.

The park district now includes almost all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. There has been continued discussion by regional leaders of expanding the district to include all nine Bay Area counties.

There has been some specu-

lation that the legislature might designate the park district as the legal instrument by which the much discussed regional government could be brought into existence.

However, the park board has taken no official cognizance of these proposals voiced in legislative hearings.

Mrs. McLaughlin said, "The park district has, at this time, an unprecedented opportunity to assume a leadership role with regards to regional government's governing functions of regional parks, open space and regional planning.

"Other functions such as air quality, water quality and Bay fill control already have existing agencies that can either form part of a consolidated governmental structure or

can (the legislature being willing), remain as single purpose agencies in a coordinated governmental structure.

"There is no one agency, as yet, to serve this purpose with regard to parks and open space," Mrs. McLaughlin said.

Mrs. McLaughlin pointed out that she ran for election as a conservationist and said she interprets the more than 32,000 votes for her as public sentiment for more open space and shoreline acquisition programs and wise use and stewardship of existing and proposed open space.

The incumbent director for the Berkeley area, Paul Harberts, a sporting goods store owner, defeated Mrs. McLaughlin 32,662 to 32,226.

Berkeley Ecologist Wins Civic Award

Sylvia C. McLaughlin of Berkeley, one of the founders of the Save the Bay Association, has been named the 1977 recipient of the Benjamin Ide Wheeler Award.

SEP 30 1977

She was primarily an arm-chair conservationist until 1962 when, along with two other women, she founded the association. The group was largely responsible for state legislation creating the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Mrs. McLaughlin later was a director of the National Audubon Society and the National Recreation and Park Association.

A Berkeley resident since

1949, she helped form Urban Care, a forum for discussing urban problems during the 1960s.

A delegate to the 1963 White House Conference on Natural Beauty, Mrs. McLaughlin also has served as a director for People for Open Space and the Oakland Museum.

The Wheeler Award was established in 1929 and is named after a president of the University of California campus at Berkeley. The award will be presented Nov. 9 at a civic luncheon at H's Lordships Restaurant.

The award, given by the Service Club Council, honors "Berkeley's most useful citizen...distinguished in public life."

NOV 10 1977

Berkeleyan Honored

Until 15 years ago, Sylvia C. McLaughlin (above) described herself as an armchair conservationist. What stirred her into action was the sight of the dwindling San Francisco Bay, and, with two friends, she founded the Save the Bay Association. Service Club Council member Paul Harberts (above) said the action was one of several that decided his committee to present her with the 1977 Benjamin Ide Wheeler Service award that honors 'Berkeley's most useful citizen.'

'They fought to save the bay

SUN APR 22 1990

Nobody, but perhaps the trio themselves, would dispute it. They are the heroes. They saved San Francisco Bay.

Esther Gulick, Catherine Kerr and Sylvia McLaughlin insist they did not do it alone. And, they add, the bay is not saved, yet. But, they are proud of what they've done.

It is good thing the three women from Berkeley didn't wait until Earth Day 1970 to get involved. It would have been too late.

In 1961, Berkeley proposed to fill 2,000 acres of shoreline and nearly double the size of the city. It would provide room for an airport, hotels, houses, schools and commercial development.

At about the same time, the Army Corps of Engineers presented a report showing that the bay would be little more than a narrow deep-water shipping channel by 2020 if all the shallow bay waters that could be filled, were filled.

"All the cities along the bay were subject to pressures to fill. A state regulatory agency was the only answer," said McLaughlin recently.

People didn't know most of the bay, other than the deep shipping channels, was not publicly owned, said Gulick. When the women began to study the situation in-depth, they discovered not only didn't the public own the bay, the public couldn't get to it.

They found there was only four miles along the entire 276-mile shoreline with direct public access in the mid-'60s.

The Save the Bay Association began in Kerr's home, and she brought McLaughlin and Gulick together on a crusade that remains an important part of their lives.

McLaughlin this year is serving as president of the Save San Francisco Bay Association. It now has 24,000 members with representation from 49 states and several countries.

When they started, recalled Gulick, "We were as innocent as innocent could be." They were also all college educated, connected to the influential people and determined.

Developers and state legislators soon learned just how determined.

Within a few years, their demand for a state regulatory agency was met with the backing and considerable influence of local legislators Nicholas Petris and Eugene McAteer.

By 1969 the Bay Conservation and Development Commission was made the permanent bay watchdog.

Today, the smelly garbage dumps that once circled the shoreline are gone. Sewer plants that dump into the bay face stringent regulations and the four miles of public access has grown to more than 100 miles, with a ring of shoreline parks now in the works.

And instead of the great shrinking envisioned by the Corps of Engineers, the bay has grown. More than 1,000 acres of shoreline has been returned to its natural state since 1969.

"We believed in what we were trying to do. We worked very hard. Certainly we were dependent on our friends and allies. You couldn't do it on your own," said McLaughlin.

— By Marie Felde